

## WAIVER OF VISAS AND VISA FEES FOR NONIMMIGRANTS

*Exchange of notes at Washington April 10 and 30, 1947*

*Entered into force April 30, 1947; operative for Sweden May 1, 1947,  
for the United States June 1, 1947*

61 Stat. 4050; Treaties and Other  
International Acts Series 1798

*The Swedish Minister to the Acting Secretary of State*

LEGATION OF SWEDEN  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

No. 140

The Minister of Sweden presents his compliments to the Honourable the Acting Secretary of State and, with reference to informal discussions between officials of the Visa Division of the Department of State and the Swedish Legation, has the honour to bring to the Acting Secretary's knowledge that the Swedish Government is prepared to abolish visa requirements, but not passport requirements, for American citizens traveling in Sweden. However, existing Swedish regulations which require special permission to stay in Sweden longer than three months or to take employment in Sweden will remain in force unchanged. At present the fee for such permits varies from 4 to 12 Swedish crowns, depending upon the period of validity of the permit.

The necessary steps for abolishing the visa requirements for American citizens visiting Sweden will be taken forthwith by the Swedish Government provided the United States Government is willing to waive, in respect of Swedish citizens, the fees for non-immigrant visas and applications therefor, and to extend to twenty-four months the validity of visas granted to Swedish citizens who may be considered habitual visitors to the United States for bona-fide business purposes.

The Minister would appreciate to be informed of the attitude of the American Government in this matter.

WASHINGTON, D.C., *April 10, 1947.*

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Swedish Minister*

The Acting Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Minister of Sweden and has the honor to refer to the Legation's Note No. 140 of April 10, 1947, in which it is stated that the Swedish Government is prepared to abolish visa requirements, but not passport requirements, for American citizens traveling to Sweden, although the Swedish regulations requiring the payment of fees for residence permits will remain in effect.

A reciprocal arrangement, effective July 4 [5], 1925,<sup>1</sup> was concluded between the Government of the United States and the Government of Sweden whereby the fees for nonimmigrant passport visas and applications therefor were waived for American citizens proceeding to Sweden, and for Swedish citizens or subjects proceeding to the United States. At the request of the Government of Sweden this arrangement was amended, effective September 5 [and October 1], 1939,<sup>2</sup> whereby there was established a fee of Kroner 4 for visaing the passport of an American citizen and a fee of \$1.25 for granting a non-immigrant passport visa to a Swedish citizen or subject.

The Government of the United States understands from the Swedish Legation's Note No. 140 that visa requirements, but not passport requirements, will be waived for American citizens proceeding to Sweden or Swedish territory and that such citizens who desire to remain in Sweden or Swedish territory for a period of time longer than three months, or to take employment therein, except in the cases of officials of the United States Government, their families, servants, and employees, will be required to obtain a permit, the fee for which will be 4 crowns for a stay of one month, 6 crowns for three months, and 12 crowns for more than three months; these periods of time being in addition to the original period of three months for which no visa or residence fee will be required. It is further understood that any number of entries may be made into Sweden or Swedish territory without a visa provided the total time spent in Sweden or Swedish territory does not exceed three months in any nine months period, but that this time limit does not apply to crew members of commercial aircraft who enter Sweden or Swedish territory and whose names appear on the aircraft's manifest on which they arrive provided they leave Sweden or Swedish territory within a reasonable time.

In view of the understanding outlined herein the Government of the United States will waive the passport visa fees, effective on and after June 1, 1947, for citizens or subjects of Sweden who are *bona fide* nonimmigrants within the meaning of the immigration laws of the United States. A non-immigrant passport visa granted by an American diplomatic or consular officer is valid for any number of applications for admission into the United States or United States territory during a period of twelve months from date

<sup>1</sup> Exchange of notes at Stockholm June 29 and 30, 1925 (*ante*, p. 757).

<sup>2</sup> EAS 198, *ante*, p. 823.

of issuance, provided the passport of the bearer is valid for that period. The Government of the United States proposes that passport visas may be granted to nonimmigrants for an initial period of two years on and after June 1, 1947. The period of validity of the visa relates only to the period within which it may be used in connection with an application for admission at a port of entry and not to the length of stay in the United States which may be permitted the bearer if he is admitted. The period of stay is a matter within the discretion of the immigration authorities.

The fee for an immigration visa to permit an alien to apply for admission into the United States with the privilege of residing permanently in this country is \$10.00. The amount of this fee is prescribed by the Immigration Act of 1924,<sup>3</sup> and it may not be changed on the basis of a reciprocal arrangement.

G. J. H.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Washington, April 30, 1947*

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*The Swedish Chargé d'Affaires ad interim to the Secretary of State*

LEGATION OF SWEDEN  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

No. 167

The Chargé d'Affaires a. i. of Sweden presents his compliments to the Honourable the Secretary of State and, with reference to the Department of State's note, dated today, has the honour to inform the Secretary that the Swedish Government, as of May 1, 1947, will abolish visa requirements, but not passport requirements, for American citizens traveling to Sweden. Existing Swedish regulations which require special permission to stay in Sweden longer than three months or to take employment there remain in force unchanged.

The Chargé d'Affaires has taken notice of the contents of the above-mentioned note of the Department of State i.a. stating that the Government of the United States will waive the passport visa fees, effective on and after June 1, 1947, for citizens or subjects of Sweden who are bona-fide non-immigrants within the meaning of the Immigration Laws of the United States, and that the Government of the United States proposes that passport visas may be granted to non-immigrants for an initial period of two years on and after June 1, 1947, which measures will be much appreciated by the Swedish Government.

WASHINGTON, D.C., *April 30, 1947*

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<sup>3</sup> 43 Stat. 153.